

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph 0014 with the following amended paragraph:

[0014] Although the above patents recognize the potential use of microbial cellulose in medical applications, the prior art has failed to provide a method of developing a wound dressing which demonstrates effective wound healing, moisture management capability and adequate biocompatibility. Accordingly, an effective wound dressing comprising microbial cellulose for treatment of chronic wounds, which is highly biocompatible, is desirable. Furthermore, a wound dressing with high moisture donation and absorption capabilities is also particularly desirable for optimal wound healing. This dual moisture handling ability of the dressing of the present invention is capable of maintaining a moist wound environment necessary for healing chronic wounds. Also, the high moisture donation ability is particularly useful for treating dry necrotic tissue and promoting autolytic debridement which is desirable for any wound closure to be possible. Additionally, the ability of the wound dressing of the present invention in assisting autologous healing by promoting granulation and allowing epithelial cells to migrate exhibits the distinct ability of the wound dressing in effecting wound closure. Finally, the wound dressing of the present invention is preferred over the non-adherent gauze dressings because it results in cleaner wounds while reducing the amount of pain the patient feels during the treatment of the wound to ~~none~~ no pain or mild pain.

Please replace paragraph 0027 with the following amended paragraph:

[0027] FIG. 1: The absorption (diamonds ♦) and donation (squares ■) capabilities of microbial cellulose wound dressings are shown versus the percent cellulose contained in the

materials. All materials were of identical area and similar thickness. The region of intersection of the two curves shows the ideal cellulose content to maximize both properties.